

## **Wajibika Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report**

April -June 2010

### **Activities Completed**

In the first quarter Wajibika reported a number of startup activities which had already been completed. Wajibika has continued to implement activities according to the first year implementation plan. The draft one year implementation plan and Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) which were submitted in draft form during the previous quarter have now been finalized and submitted in their final form to USAID for approval. Verbal approval has been provided pending written approval of first year implementation plan, first year Work Plan and three year budget.

Wajibika has continued doing advocacy work through meetings with the different authorities in the country including PMORALG, Development Partner Groups, Regional Secretariat and Local Council Authorities.

Wajibika, advertized mentor positions for the eight councils in Iringa region in April 2010. The advertisement drew some interesting applicants. These applicants were interviewed and the successful candidates shortlisted with the intention of engaging them early in July 2010. The use of mentors as a means of providing support to the districts has been enthusiastically received by the council authorities. It was really encouraging to see their enthusiasm in the process of identifying mentors and in particularly during the interview process where three council representatives actively participated as core members of the Wajibika interviewing team. This is a positive sign of stakeholders' participation in the process of identifying and selecting the mentors. This will enhance their recognition in the councils making their work easier and more effective and sustainable. This has been a success story which is directly related to implementation of interventions. We shall monitor this story of mentors and see how it develops.

The Wajibika team expected that applicants would come from the same council where they would serve as a mentor for the project. However, this was not possible in the case of certain councils. Hence the team had to recruit some mentors from different councils with the understanding that they would move and reside in their assigned councils for the period of the contract. Contracts have been provided to the 8 Mentors and all have signed their contracts. They are expected to start work on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010.

## Benchmarks Achieved

Benchmark	Status
Hire key personnel	Completed
Security in place for Dar Office	In progress
M&E plan to Dec 31 2011 finalized and submitted to USAID	Completed
Routine project reporting systems set-up	On going
Report on rapid assessment	Completed
Right Rapid assessment report	Completed
Disseminate rapid assessment results study findings	In progress
Identify senior level MOHSW and PMO-RALG staff to be champions for interventions	In progress
Hire mentors for startup councils	Completed
Train/orient mentors in eight start-up Councils	Orientation done at Hq level , training scheduled for second week of July 2010
Identify relevant written resources and disseminate to eight start-up Councils	Done (Documents include, Health Sector Policy, HSSP III, CCHP guideline, Health Centre and Dispensary Planning template, Code of Conduct for the Public servant, LGRP II, PPA, 2004, Procurement Regulations for works, goods and non consultant 2005, Procurement regulations for Consultancy services 2005, Local Government Financial Memorandum, Guideline for the preparation MTF and presentation handouts.

## Problems Encountered (and whether resolved or outstanding)

As Wajibika is in a late start up phase, the project has faced some problems with subcontracting with Technobrain and PMO-RALG. The progress in subcontracting has been slow due to the limited capacity that these subcontractors have to develop budgets that are in compliance with USAID requirements. Therefore, project staff have had to work closely with Technobrain and PMO-RALG to get them on board.

Another challenge to the project has been establishing MoUs with the PMO-RALG, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Signing of MoUs with Ministries normally takes a long time; however, we are trying to push so that we can keep delays to tolerable levels. The MoUs have being submitted to the relevant Ministries as of Mid June 2010. Additionally, the planned meeting with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) management to discuss project related issues was postponed because of ongoing Parliamentary session. We shall seek another appointment for this meeting.

The Government has decided to divide Iringa Region among others, into two regions Iringa and Njombe. The Njombe region will include a new council by the name of Wanging'ombe. The two new regions have a total of nine councils (4 in Njombe and 5 in Iringa). This will mean that the project must deal with another Regional Secretariat in terms of advocacy and acceptability and a new council in terms of sensitization and recruiting an additional mentor.

## **Proposed Solutions to New or Ongoing Problems**

*Progress towards solving last quarter reported problems/challenges:* The issue of hiring of Wajibika's Chief Technical Advisor for Strategic Planning (STASP) has been sorted out. This staff is now on board working full time with Wajibika team. Challenges faced in communicating with various stakeholders and some representatives from some organizations implementing similar work have reduced significantly. During the quarter Wajibika team has at one time or the other met and made presentations to the Development Partner Group and other projects doing similar work. These included The Mkapa Foundation and the Capacity Project who are both working in capacity building in the area of human resource and planning. The team also has continued to meet with key staff from the key ministries as an attempt among other things of finding champions for our project. Thus far, we have had some names being flagged to us.

*Strategies for tackling the problems/challenges mentioned in this quarter:*

After much time and effort on the part of Wajibika staff, to assist Technobrain to develop a compliant budget with a corresponding statement of work, the subcontract is in process and should be issued in the immediate future.

As mentioned above establishing MoUs between the project and partner ministries takes time. However as we are reporting, all the MoUs; that's one at national level and one at council level have been developed with participation of the respective ministries and have been submitted to the offices of the Permanent Secretaries of the ministries. We hope that the one at council level will be signed at the time mentors are being introduced in their respective councils early July 2010.

We are going to ensure that mentors are aware that there is a move to divide the regions into two and that they should be ready to interact with the new regional and council leadership. It is envisaged that once leaders for the new region are in place, Wajibika team will visit the new Regional Authorities and ensure that they are well informed of the objectives and activities of the Wajibika project and mobilize them to rally their support to the project.

The postponed meeting with the MoHSW management will be rescheduled as soon as the June –July Parliamentary session comes to an end.

## **Success Stories**

We are in a start up phase and we continue to progress according to plan. However, because of the short time since we started we do not have a particular success stories to tell apart from the good progress and acceptance by other stakeholders we are experiencing.

## **Documentation of Best Practices (that can be scaled up)**

Though it is still early, but we feel that the use of mentors is one of the approaches which will be scale up to other regions/councils as we expand. We intend to use the mentors to implement some of the interventions mentioned in the rapid assessment report.

## **List of Upcoming Events/Key Meetings**

- Meeting /Presentation to the MoHSW Management
- Introduction of mentors to their respective councils
- Training of mentors
- Presentation of Baseline findings to relevant stakeholders